

EXCERPTS FROM CURRENT INTELLIGENCE DIGEST

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18. Comment on Guatemala's requests to UN and Inter-American Peace Commission: Guatemala's 21 June request to have Inter-American Peace Commission action deferred was apparently based on a belief that Guatemala would be better served by consideration of the case in the UN Security Council, where the Soviet member can assist the Arbenz cause.

In making this request to the Peace Commission--a semi-autonomous five-member subsidiary body within the Organization of American States--the Guatemalan government said it desired to await the outcome of the UN's 20 June resolution calling for a cease-fire. At that time, the Guatemalan delegation at the UN intimated that further Security Council action would be requested if the fighting continued, and a new Security Council meeting has now been requested for 23 June. The Guatemalan government can be expected to make further efforts to document charges of aggression by such "evidence" as it can produce.

Guatemala's original complaint to the Peace Commission--filed simultaneously with its appeal to the UN on 19 June--appeared designed to rebut possible charges that it had ignored its legal obligation to seek remedies within the regional security system. Arbenz may also have hoped to block efforts to call a full meeting of the OAS to discuss the Guatemalan threat to hemisphere security. (C Factual data from: U NY Times, 22 and 23 June 54)